

Message Text

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14

ACTION COA-02

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L-03 IO-14 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 NSC-10 FMC-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGRN, PBOR, EFIS, MX

SUBJ: U.S.-MEXICAN TUNA DISCUSSIONS

1. SUMMARY: U.S. AND MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES MET TUESDAY, SUB-DIVIDED INTO A WORKING GROUP, AND ENCOUNTERED A RELATIVELY HARD LINE. PRIVATELY MEXICAN NEGOTIATORS INDICATE SOME FLEXIBILITY IF U.S. PREPARED TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT NINE MEXICAN VESSELS TO FISH IN CLOSED SEASON IN CONTRAST TO SEVEN VESSELS LAST YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING USG, IATTC COMMISSIONERS, AND ABOUT 15 INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, MET MONDAY AND TUESDAY TO DISCUSS OPTIONS. CONSENSUS WAS THAT DELEGATION SHOULD CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM ON SAME BASIS AS PREVIOUS AGREEMENT BECAUSE USE OF COMPLETELY NEW OPTION WOULD EXCEED MANDATE GIVEN TO U.S. AND MEXICO BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, OTHER OPTIONS WERE CONSIDERED AND GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT IN 1975 DEVELOP NEW SYSTEM WHICH WOULD LIMIT MEXICANS IN FUTURE YEARS. COMMISSIONERS AND INDUSTRY REPS WERE INFORMED USG INTENDED TO BE FORTHCOMING BUT NOT TO CAVE COMPLETELY. TUESDAY FULL CONTINGENT MET WITH MEXICANS, COMPLETED PROCEDURAL AND ATMOSPHERIC REQUIREMENTS AND BROKE INTO WORKING GROUP WHERE U.S. REPRESENTED BY COMMISSIONERS AND DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO PROBE EARLIER
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MEXICAN PROPOSAL.

3. THERE WAS LITTLE GOOD NEWS AND SUBSTANTIAL BAD NEWS. MEXICO DISPLAYED NO PREPAREDNESS TO ACCEPT ANY LIMITATION ON ITS DESIRE TO FULLY EMPLOY TOTAL FISHING CAPACITY WITHOUT REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONSERVE THE FISH RESOURCE. MEXICAN HEAD OF DELEGATION CASTRO Y CASTRO ARGUED U.S. MUST ACCEPT COMMITMENT TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT OF COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP (I.E., ASSIST MEXICAN FISHING INDUSTRY THROUGH EXCEPTION TO CONSERVATION MEASURES DESPITE EFFECT ON U.S. PRIVATE TUNA INDUSTRY). ONLY OFFSET OFFERED BY MEXICO WAS SOME INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO COMPETE FOR CATCH DURING OPEN SEASON AND PREPAREDNESS TO ARREST EXPANSION EFFORT WHEN GOM REACHES AN EVENTUAL TOTAL CATCH OF 40,000 (THIS COULD MEAN TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL TWELVE PERCENT OF TUNA CATCH FROM U.S. TO MEXICAN INDUSTRY).

4. PRIVATE INFORMAL TALKS WITH ONE OF COMMISSIONERS, MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE ZARUR, INDICATE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN REDUCING MEXICAN PACKAGE REQUEST. MEXICAN WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE PORTION OF ANNOUNCED 20,000 TOTAL CATCH GOAL OFFERED IN EXCHANGE FOR ABILITY FOR NINE MEXICAN VESSELS TO FISH WITHOUT RESTRICTION DURING CLOSED REGULATORY SEASON.

5. PREVIOUS U.S. CONCESSIONS TO MEXICO FOR CLOSED SEASON FISHING BASED UPON VESSEL HARDSHIP DO NOT HOLD WATER THIS YEAR WHEN ONE OR TWO FORMERLY EFFICIENT U.S. VESSELS WITH U.S. CAPTAINS ENTER MEXICAN FLEET. MEXICO WISHES TO HAVE THEM RECEIVE EXCEPTIONAL TREATMENT DURING CLOSED SEASON. U.S. INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES SEE FALSE HARDSHIP PRETEXT PLUS INCENTIVE FOR OTHER U.S. VESSELS TO LEAVE U.S. FLAG AS THREATENING TO FUTURE LIVELIHOOD.

6. PRIVATE TALKS INDICATE MEXICO WILLING TO DEFINE HARDSHIP VESSEL FOR SAKE OF AGREEMENT TO EXCLUDE FORMER U.S. VESSELS IF U.S. WILLING LOOK OTHER WAY WHEN THESE VESSELS VIOLATE AGREEMENT BY FISHING IN CLOSED SEASON.

7. COMMENT: WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MEXICO ACCEPT PRINCIPLE THAT HARDSHIP VESSEL MEANS ONLY OLD, INEFFICIENT VESSELS. BY DOING SO MEXICO WOULD ACCEPT NEW PRECEDENT AND FOR FIRST TIME RESTRICT FISHING OF MEXICAN VESSELS DURING CLOSED SEASON--THUS, ALSO FOR FIRST TIME, SHARING IN CONSERVATION RESPONSIBILITIES. AT PRESENT
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WE ARE UNWILLING ACCEPT GOM SCHEME WHICH IS ANATHEMA TO U.S. INDUSTRY, PRINCIPLE OF CONSERVATION, AND ABOVE BOARD SOLUTION. WE WILL PRESS FURTHER.
JOVA

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